to include on their own additional items of mass consumption taking into account local needs and preference of the consumers. Many State Governments/UT Administrations are reportedly distributing pulses, tea, iodised salt, soaps etc. through fair price shops. There is no proposal to distribute essential drugs to the consumers through the fair price shops as the same may not be administratively feasible.

Compensation under Consumer Protection Act

7319. SHRI AHMD MOHMEDBHAI PATEL :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a significant judgement the Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that if a trader intentionally delays the supply and delivery of goods ordered by a consumer, it will amount to unfair trade practice under Provisions of Consumer Protection Act and the Court has power to compensate in such cases;

(b) if so, whether this judgement of SC has been rigorously imposed in the States;

(c) if so, to what extent imposing of SC order has helped the common people; and

(d) how many traders have so far been punished under the said orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 12-4-94 in Civil Appeal No. 373 of 1994 in the matter of Om Prakash Versus Assistant Engineer, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited and others held, that with effect from 27-9-91, the intentional delay in the delivery of goods amounted to unfair trade practices. The three tier rederessal machinery set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is to keep the above judgement in view while deciding such cases.

(d) The Ministry does not compile such information.

Rise in price of essential commodities

7320. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI G. G. SWELL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent to which prices of essential commodities have gone up since the present Government came to power;

(b) what are the details of such various commodities including sugar;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a marginal difference in the prices of the items sold through fair price shops and the open market;

(d) whether it is also a fact that PDS commodities are diverted to rural and backward areas to be sold in the open market; and

(e) if so, what measures are being taken to prevent the diversion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and